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TV STAR MATTHEW PERRY OF FRIENDS FAME FOUND DEAD

Matthew Perry, whose sarcastic but lovable Chandler Bing was one of TV's most famous and most quotable characters, has died at 54

ACTOR DROWNED IN JACUZZI AT HIS HOME

Perry was found dead of an apparent drowning, in the jacuzzi at his Los Angeles home on Saturday. The actor was open about his long and public struggle with addiction, writing at the beginning of his 2022 best-selling memoir: "Hi, my name is Matthew, although you may know me by another name. My friends call me Matty. And I should be dead."

FRIENDS RAN FOR 10 YRS FROM 1994 TO 2004

- Perry's 10 seasons on Friends made him one of Hollywood's most recognizable actors, starring opposite Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Matt LeBlanc, Lisa Kudrow and David Schwimmer
- The series, which ran from 1994-2004, was one of television's biggest hits and has taken on a new life in recent years on streaming services

$1 million

ESTIMATED PAYMENT PERRY RECEIVED FROM EACH EPISODE OF FRIENDS

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

8 dead, 32 hurt as two trains collide in AP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Visakhapatnam

AT least eight people were killed and 32 others injured after two trains collided near Kantakapalli in Vizianagaram district on Sunday night. The toll is likely to increase.

The incident took place around 7 pm when the Visakhapatnam-Rayagada passenger train rammed into the Visakhapatnam-Palasa special passenger while it was waiting for a signal after experiencing a technical snag.

Three bogies of the Rayagada passenger train were derailed in the accident.

Ambulances were deployed and the injured were shifted to different hospitals in Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram districts. Meanwhile, the lack of power connection at the accident spot has slowed down the rescue operations.

Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy expressed shock over the incident and instructed officials of the medical and health, revenue, police, and other departments to coordinate and carry out relief operations immediately.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Railway minister and took an update.

2 killed, many hurt in triple blasts at Christian prayer meet in Kerala

Multiple explosions at congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses in Kochi; IED bombs used

ARUN M & ANIL KUMAR T @Kochi

THREE simultaneous explosions rocked a crowded prayer meeting of the Christian sect Jehovah's Witnesses at Kalamassery in Kochi on Sunday morning, killing two and injuring scores of others. While the blasts, carried out using IEDs (improvised explosive devices), triggered suspicions of a terror attack and sparked conspiracy theories, a 50-year-old man, said to be an estranged member of the sect, surrendered later in the day claiming responsibility for the explosions. Police have, however, not ruled out the terror angle. An investigation involving both police and NIA is on and security has been tightened across the state.

The first woman killed was identified as Liyona Poulose, 60, of Perumbavoor. The second victim was identified as Kumari, 53, a Thodupuzha native. Police do not rule out the possibility of her involvement in the blasts. Six of the injured are said to be critical.

Dominic Martin, who claimed responsibility for the blasts that occurred at around 9:30am at Zamra International Convention and Exhibition Centre, where around 2,500 members of the congregation had assembled on the concluding day of the three-day prayer meeting, surrendered before police in Thrissur.

ADGP (law and order) M R Ajith Kumar said Martin has confessed to the crime and also submitted some evidence to prove his involvement. "We are examining the evidence that he has submitted," he said.

Meanwhile, police took another person, Santhosh Abraham, 47, into custody. The Pathanamthitta native was found moving suspiciously in the area. The police have collected CCTV footage of the past three days.

Police are also seeking information about a blue Baleno car that left the premises of the convention centre 10 minutes before the prayer started. Eyewitnesses have reportedly said they saw a person arriving in the car with a bag.

Fire breaks out inside the Zamra International Convention and Exhibition Centre at Kalamassery in Kochi after three bombs went off on Sunday morning | EXPRESS

TERROR LINK

Replying to the questions on terror link, Kerala police chief Sheikh Darvesh Sahib said, "At this stage, I cannot say anything. Only after the investigations can I confirm the details. The blasts were triggered by IEDs"

6 in critical condition

- 3 near-simultaneous IED blasts occurred at 9.30am
- Around 2,500 people were at the venue when the bombs went off
- Police seeking details of a blue car that left the venue minutes before the blasts
- Six of the injured are said in critical condition; a 12-year-old child has suffered 70% burn injuries

Security tightened along Kerala border

Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara on Sunday said security has been intensified and instructions given to the police department to monitor the situation in border areas of Dakshina Kannada district, adjoining neighbouring Kerala, following a serial blast at a convention centre in that state. He said the police regularly gather intelligence and take action to maintain security. P5

India's bowling attack stepped up in Lucknow, defending a total of 229 against reigning champions England to register their sixth consecutive win of the WC | AP

Invincible India hit 6, look set for last four

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Lucknow

THERE was a certain aura in the air inside the Ekana Stadium in Lucknow on Sunday night. To be in the presence of the Indian team was to be breathing the same rarified air as the side playing like champions-elect. While it may read like hyperbole, it only accurately conveys how dominating the hosts have been over their first six World Cup games.

In terms of overs, this is how quickly they have been winning games. They had almost 10 overs to spare when they got over the line against Australia (8.4). Since then, the procession has continued. Fifteen against Afghanistan, 19.3 against Pakistan, 8.3 against Bangladesh, two against New Zealand and dismissed England with 15.1 overs to spare on Sunday.

The quirk of the format means they need one more win to assure themselves of a spot in the last-four but that will surely be confirmed in the days to come. They are playing a sport from the dream factory and it's not hard to get lost in their spell.

Sunday had a new challenge for Rohit Sharma & Co. and they aced that with minimum fuss. When Jos Buttler inserted India in on a slugging pitch, the choice was filled with intrigue. How would they go about setting a target? Would Rohit keep his aggression going? Would the middle-order make some runs if the need arose? All these questions had affirmative replies on a special night — where they registered a 100-run win against defending champions to move to the top of the table — for the nearly full capacity crowd that had begun making their way a good three-and-a-half hours before the first ball was even bowled. It's the sort of buzz the team has created thanks to this winning run that they are on.

Up next is Sri Lanka at the Wankhede on Friday where that same aura may be visible again. The aura of invincibility.

MORE ON: P13

ICC MEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP INDIA 2023

Candidates buy new shirts, some cut sleeves to write FDA exam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Haveri

DRAMATIC scenes were reported when a large number of candidates arrived to write the Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) entrance exams for first-division and second-division assistant posts in Haveri on Sunday.

The examination authorities refused to allow candidates wearing full-arm shirts and tight jeans into exam centres. Some candidates then rushed to buy new shirts, while others cut the sleeves of their full-arm shirts to attend the entrance exams.

The authorities pointed out that the rule had been printed on the hall ticket, but some candidates failed to notice it. As per KEA guidelines, full-sleeves shirts and tight-jeans pants are not allowed inside exam centres. This is to avoid candidates from indulging in exam malpractice by hiding answers in their shirts and pants, the authorities said.

Over 35,000 students attended the exam on Sunday. P4

21 ARRESTED FOR MALPRACTICE

Kalaburagi and Yadgir police have arrested 21, including candidates who indulged in malpractice and those who helped them during the Karnataka Examination Authority entrance exam for first division assistants on Saturday, the police confirmed on Sunday. P4

Desperate Palestinians break into aid distribution centres for food

AGENCIES

EVEN as Israel is expanding its air and ground operations in Gaza to strike Hamas targets, a UN agency said on Sunday that thousands of Palestinians desperate for food and basic items broke into warehouses and aid distribution centres and took away wheat flour and other basic survival items such as hygiene supplies.

"This is a worrying sign that civil order is starting to break down after three weeks of war and a tight siege on Gaza. People are scared, frustrated and desperate... They feel that they are on their own, cut off from their families inside Gaza and the rest of the world," said Thomas White, director of UNRWA Affairs in the Gaza Strip.

The Israel-Hamas war has entered its third week. Israel has begun its ground offensive in Gaza by bringing in tanks and infantry. On Sunday, the Israeli military said that it has stuck over 450 targets in the last 24 hours. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is under pressure from the family members of hostages to exchange Palestinian prisoners for the release of their loved ones held by Hamas.

The Palestinian Red Crescent said one more Gaza hospital received ultimatum from Israeli authorities to evacuate. Earlier, Israel's demand to evacuate hospitals was rejected by Palestine.

Meanwhile, US President Joe Biden has called upon Israel and Arab leaders to think about a two-state solution after the war. P11

Palestinians storm a UN-run aid supply center that distributes food to displaced families in Central Gaza | AFP

EXPRESS READ

Three killed in as BNP, Awami League supporters spar in B'desh

Dhaka: Three people were killed on Sunday in clashes between supporters of the BNP and the Awami League during a nationwide strike, heightening tensions in Bangladesh ahead of general elections expected in January. The BNP called a strike on Sunday against the police forcing it to end its rally a day earlier.

Modi to lay foundation stone for projects worth ₹6,000 crore

Ahmedabad: PM Narendra Modi will be on a two-day visit to Gujarat from Monday during which he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stones of development projects worth ˜5,950 crore, officials said on Sunday. The PM will also pay tribute to Sardar Patel at the Statue of Unity

Police officer shot at, injured while playing cricket in Srinagar

Srinagar: A police official, who was playing cricket with local boys, was shot at and critically injured by terrorist at Eidgah ground in downtown Srinagar on Sunday. Inspector Masroor Ahmed Wani was shot at and injured by terrorists at Eidgah ground in downtown Srinagar on Sunday | P10

Online gaming addictive, escapist, a coping strategy: Study

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

A recent research study by the NIMHANS showed findings that support the view that online gaming is an "escapist coping strategy" in dealing with difficult life situations. The paper has been accepted for publication by a prominent peer-reviewed journal.

"The nature of online gaming has led to substitution of real life with the virtual environment provided by the game, leading to addictive symptoms such as Internet Gaming Disorder (IGD)," Dr Manoj Sharma, Professor & Coordinator, Service for Healthy Use of Technology (SHUT), Department of Clinical Psychology, NIMHANS and the author of the research paper, told *TNIE*.

Online gaming is frequently used as a "coping mechanism, an avoidant, escapist strategy, which can lead to problematic or excessive gaming, with harmful outcomes and poor mental health. The players cope with their bereavement during the gameplay by shifting between stressors that relate to their loss and restoration surrounding the bereavement. Research has also found that regardless of the difficult life situation, gaming as a coping mechanism with escapist motives differs based on the types of games," he said.

Giving an example, the clinical psychologist said that during the research, they found a 17-year-old boy, who had just lost his father to a medical condition engaged in online gaming even as his father's final rituals were being conducted.

"Theirs is a single-child family and his father used to buy him the latest gadgets and devices. His mother was strict and deeply hurt at her son's 'insensitivity'. When we asked the teen, he told us that gaming was his way to distract himself from his loss," said Sharma. P10

> The nature of online gaming has led to substitution of real life with the virtual environment provided by the game
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> Dr Manoj Sharma